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The Microsoft case is over, as far as the federal government is concerned, and thank heaven for that. The national economy has suffered enough, and its driving engine, the high tech industry, has not been helped by the fact that one of its leading competitors has been dragged into court for more than three years by the Justice Department.

The settlement's provisions protect Microsoft's freedom to innovate its products and will hopefully lead to a new era of revitalized competition in the software market and other areas of the technology economy. Consumers and investors will both benefit from this settlement, and hopefully, it will be the last time the government interferes with the high tech economy.

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